

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs

Summary of H.R. 4236, Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996

116 sections - 76 affect NPS.

Major pieces are Presidio Trust authorization, and acquisition of Sterling Forest

Five new areas created:

- Tallgrass Prairie NP (KS)
- Nicodemus NHS (KS)
- Washita Battlefield NHS (OK)
- New Bedford Whaling NHP (MA)
- Boston Harbor Islands NRA (MA)

One affiliated area:

- Aleutian World War II National Historic Area (Unalaska)

Designation of three other areas:

- Vancouver National Historic Reserve (WA)
- Great Falls Historic District (NJ)
- AIDS Memorial Grove (CA)

Creates 9 new heritage areas: (with field areas having lead responsibility)

- Coal (WV)
- Tennessee Civil War
- Augusta Canal (GA)
- Steel Industry (PA)
- Essex (MA)
- South Carolina
- Ohio & Erie Canal (OH)
- Shenandoah Valley battlefields (VA)
- Hudson River Valley (NY)

One heritage area under Ag. Dept. - America's Agriculture Heritage (IA)

One existing heritage area was modified: Blackstone River Valley (RI and MA)

One study was proposed for extending Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor (IL)

Twelve boundary modifications were included:

Yucca House (CO)	Zion (UT)	Pictured Rocks (MI)
Independence (PA)	Craters of the Moon (ID)	Hagerman Fossil Beds (ID)
Wupatki (AZ)	Walnut Canyon (AZ)	Colonial (VA)
Cumberland Gap (VA)	Big Thicket (TX)	Women's Rights (NY)

NPS Administrative reform section provided:

- Employee housing authorities
- Minor boundary adjustment authority
- Authority for park administrative and visitors' facilities outside Zion NP
- Elimination of reporting requirements
- Senate confirmation of NPS directors and establishment of two deputy directors
- Reauthorization of NPS Advisory Board
- Challenge Cost-Share Authority
- Cost Recovery for Damage to Park Resources

Miscellaneous other authorities:

- Removes limitation on expenditure of funds for park buildings
- Provides authority for transportation of children to and from units of system
- Provides authority to use motor vehicles, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopters to control feral burros and horses
- Requires Secretary to allow 50 free-roaming horses in Ozark Scenic Riverways
- Provides disposal authority for museum objects
- Increases amount available for expenditure on VIP program
- Allows visitor center to be built outside Rocky Mountain NP (CO)
- Allows the town of Grand Lake to permanently maintain a cemetery in Rocky Mount NP (CO)
- Allows collection of fees for use of road in Delaware Water Gap NRA (PA)
- Revises regulations on Glacier Bay cruise ships (AK)
- Allows Boston Public Library to distribute info. on Boston NHP (MA)
- Extends authority for Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Authorizes cooperative research authority for NPS
- Authorizes NPS to contribute \$3 million toward building of visitor center at Natchez NHP (MS)
- Allows continued traditional fishing of red fish within Katmai NP (AK)
- Eliminates use of reservation by Army Corps of Engineers at Ft. Pulaski NM (GA)

Three recognitions:

- Designates the Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day
- Designates the Laura Hudson Visitor Center at Jean Lafitte NHP (LA)
- Designates the Robert Lagomarsino Visitor Center at Channel Islands NP (CA)

Studies:

- Authorizes a feasibility study of Calumet Ecological Park (IL)

Legislative Taking:

- Authorizes acquisition of Santa Cruz Island property in Channel Islands NP (CA)

Land Exchanges:

Anaktuvuk Pass in Gates of the Arctic NP (AK)
Alaska Peninsula Subsurface Consolidation involving Aniakchak NM (AK)

Trails:

Study of Old Spanish Trail
Designation of Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Makes permanent protections from development for Hanford Reach of the Columbia River (WA)
Designates 11.5 mile segment of Lamprey River (NH)
Allows State of WV to do fish stocking in New River Gorge National River (WV)
Authorizes Secretary to construct a visitor center at New River and Gauley River
Requires Secretary to create access point to Gauley River at Woods Ferry (WV)
Allows Secretary to acquire public access and parking areas at Eads Mill along Bluestone River (WV)
Provides protection for North St. Vrain Creek from any dams or impoundments within Rocky Mountain NP downstream for eight miles
Makes technical amendments to Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Extension of Commissions:

Kaloko-Honokohau NHP (HI)
Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP (OH)

Recognition of African Americans:

Extends authority for Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work - extension until October 27, 1998.
Authorizes Secretary to make matching grants to historically black colleges
Authorizes the establishment of memorial in D.C. to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recognition of Japanese Americans:

Authorizes establishment of memorial in D.C. to Japanese American patriotism in WWII.
Places under NPS jurisdiction land within boundaries of Manzanar NHS (CA)

Civil War sites:

Establishes the U.S. Civil War Center at Louisiana State University
Authorizes construction of visitor center at Corinth (MS)
Authorizes study of Revolutionary War sites and War of 1812 sites.
Provides an authorization of the NPS American Battlefield Protection program
Increases the authorization for completion of the relocation of the highway around Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP (GA)